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AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

In the Specification

Please replace the paragraph on page 7, line 12 with the following paragraph.

-- The mechanism of the protein splicing process has been studied in great detail (Chong, et al., *J. Biol. Chem.* 1996, 271, 22159-22168; Xu, M-Q & Perler, F. B. *EMBO Journal*, 1996, 15, 5146-5153) and conserved amino acids have been found at the intein and extein splicing points (Xu, et al., *EMBO Journal*, 1994, 13 5517-522). The constructs described herein contain an intein sequence fused to the 5' -terminus of the first gene. Suitable intein sequences can be selected from any of the proteins known to contain protein splicing elements. A database containing all known inteins can be found on the World Wide Web at <http://www.neb.com/neb/inteins.html> (Perler, F. B. *Nucleic Acids Research*, 1999, 27, 346-347). The intein sequence is fused at the 3' end to the 5' end of a second gene. For targeting of this gene to a certain organelle, a peptide signal can be fused to the coding sequence of the gene. After the second gene, the intein-gene sequence can be repeated as often as desired for expression of multiple proteins in the same cell (Figure 1 a, n >1). For multi-intein containing constructs, it may be useful to use intein elements from different sources. After the sequence of the last gene to be expressed, a transcription termination sequence must be inserted.--